

GREAT BATTLE-SHIP SAFELY LAUNCHED

The Connecticut Goes Into the Water at the Brooklyn Navy Yard While 30,000 Persons Cheer and Bands Play National Airs.

With the inspiring strains of the "Star Spangled Banner," played by three big naval bands, and the wild huzzas of thirty thousand people as an accompaniment, the new pride of the United States navy, the monster battleship Connecticut, slid gracefully from the ways in the Brooklyn Navy-Yard to-day. She went frisking gayly to the opposite shore until the fleet of tooting tugs, grappling her at every point, brought her to a standstill.

It was a scene long to be remembered by those who witnessed it, and the great battleship, built by Government workmen in a Government yard, seemed itself to take on the spirit of the occasion. She creaked and groaned in apparent agony as she started down the incline, and put her giant strength to its first test, just like Kipling's famous ship, and before she hit the water one could almost imagine he heard the remarks of the garboard strake to the cabin nail.

But once in the water the big Connecticut rolled and pitched herself into complete harmony and finally came to a standstill, her coat of brilliant red fairly sparkling in the morning sun and her fluttering flags snapping in their pride.

ANXIOUS MOMENT FOR CONSTRUCTORS.

And over in a corner of the yard, grinning through their pallor, stood a little group of naval constructors, the men who moulded the monster into form and who held their breaths as she took her maiden start, hardly daring to speak until they saw her safely in the water.

If an auspicious start in life is an augury of great things in the future the career of the Connecticut ought to be a mighty one. Never has an American battleship been launched under such magnificent conditions. There were 30,000 persons in the yard, the roofs of warehouses in the vicinity were crowded until it seemed as though they would collapse; the walks of the Williamsburg Bridge were black with people.

GREAT PREPARATIONS FOR EVENT.

Housecleaning in the Navy-Yard for the great event had been complete. Even the stacks of obsolete cannon balls had been polished for the occasion. The guests, who included some of the greatest men in the land, arrived early. Most of the men wore frock coats and silk hats, while the women were fashionably attired. The guests passed through long lines of marines, who policed every inch of the yard and stood like wooden statues at their posts, their uniforms fitting like gloves. Wherever an American flag could be placed it had been placed, wherever there was room for a strip of bunting the strip had been put there. At the launching-place the Connecticut stood firmly in her skeleton frame, a huge American flag draped across her bow and scores of small flags waving from her uncompleted superstructure.

In the flag-draped stands around her stood scores of naval officers of every rank, from Admirals to Ensigns, the hosts of the day. Such a profusion of gold lace and rank insignia has not been seen in the Brooklyn Navy-Yard in many a day, and with the flag display and the fine day it made an inspiring spectacle.

The time set for the launching was 11 o'clock, but there were various little delays which made the actual starting sixteen minutes later. The stands were crowded and a dead silence prevailed. On the launching platform stood Miss Alice B. Welles, granddaughter of Gideon Welles, President Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy, who christened the ship. With her on the platform were Governor and Mrs. Chamberlain, of Connecticut; Mrs. M. G. Houghton, Mrs. W. R. Nowe, Mrs. Rodgers and Naval Constructor Baxter, in whose hands every detail of the launching was placed and on whose shoulders entire responsibility for its success rested. Miss Welles wore a gown of pearl gray cloth, with a huge bunch of violets at the waist. Her hair was a large Gainsborough and she carried a bouquet of American beauty roses. Right beside her, swung from a scaffold, was the bottle of wine, closely wrapped in red, white and blue ribbons.

Meanwhile a lot of quiet work was being done. In and out of the skeleton frame were dark mysterious men in overalls tapping this bolt and that bolt, investing this block and that block, and making certain that nothing was wrong.

FINAL SIGNAL GIVEN.

Finally, at a signal, they all withdrew, and Mr. Baxter held up his hand. Every one knew what that meant. Mr. Baxter took a telephone transmitter in one hand, a revolver in the other. He spoke sharply through the former, and a gang of men were seen to fairly leap at the sides of the ship. In a twinkling they had hauled away the huge timbers, which have held up the Connecticut's side. Another order went through the telephone, and another gang jumped forward and battered away the smaller stays. For a moment there was silence, then a shrill whistle sounded, and five men sprang at the bow and began to saw away the last timber holding the big fighter in place.

In the quiet of the saws through the heavy wood could be distinctly heard. It didn't last long, for they got through the timber in a few seconds. Mr. Baxter held up his hand and with a final push and pull of the saws the men leaped back. The bands started the National anthem together and it was seen that the Connecticut was moving.

She moved ever so little and then seemed to stop. Of course she didn't stop, but it seemed as though she did to the spectators. Then she seemed to take a second move, a more decisive one, and before five seconds had passed it was apparent that she had gathered some impetus. The Connecticut slid smoothly and Miss Welles grabbed the wine bottle and swung it hard at the bow. She missed by a foot. This rattled the young woman and her efforts to get the bottle again were futile. A workman finally grabbed it and saved the day by smashing it against the side of the ship. The Connecticut had a narrow escape from going into the water unchristened.

MISS WELLES'S CHRISTENING SPEECH.

It is stated on the highest authority that Miss Welles also made the customary speech, which in this case was: "I christen thee Connecticut." But in that thunder of sound not a word could be heard.

The Connecticut hit the water a resounding whack and the wash that came back sent a small-sized tidal wave over the bulkheads. It looked as though the big ship was going so fast that she would skim clean across the basin and leap up on land, but there was a fleet of Government tugs waiting for her, and in a twinkling they had a veritable web of hawsers on her. She was pulled up sharp and rested there.

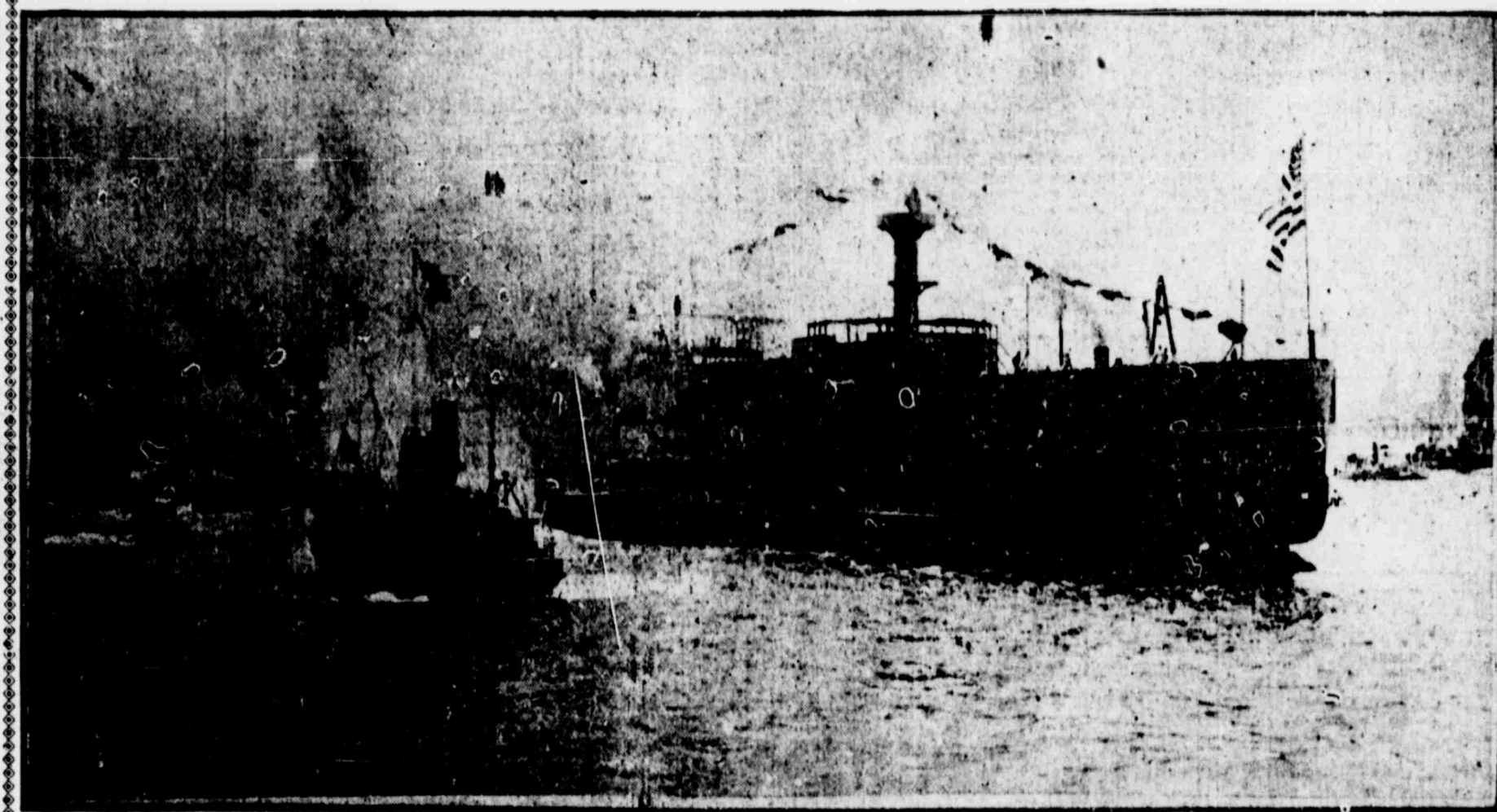
The crowd went on cheering for a long time and finally quit for lack of lung power. Then there were cheers for the naval constructors, cheers for the workmen, cheers for the great United States and cheers for most everything in sight and some things out of sight.

The Connecticut, it was said by the constructors, didn't wrench a screw or a bolt in her trip.

Among those who witnessed the launching were Secretary of the Navy Morton and a party who came on the Dolphin; the following members of the Navy League: Gen. Benjamin F. Tracy, William McAdoo, Robert S. Sisco, A. S. Appar, Aaron Vanderbilt and J. F. Tams; Mayor McClellan, the French Admiral and officers of the French cruisers now lying in this harbor; Lewis Nixon, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, Chief Constructor Capps, Rear-Admiral Coghlan, Rear-Admiral Melville and Gen. Corbin and Grant. The guests were received by a special committee made up of Miss Helen Miller Gould, Mrs. E. A. McWhin, Mrs. Russell Sage, Mrs. Charles F. Darlington, Mrs. Albert S. Barker, Mrs. John P. Munn, Mrs. O. B. Potter and Mrs. Frederick Rodgers. They were assisted by a committee representing the managers of the association.

GIANT BATTLE-SHIP CONNECTICUT LAUNCHED TO-DAY AT THE BROOKLYN NAVY-YARD.

(From a Photograph Taken Especially for The Evening World by Staff Photographer Curtis as the Formidable Sea Fighter Was Actually Sliding Into the Water After Being Christened by Miss Alice Welles.)



ROBBER'S VICTIM ADRIFT IN BOAT

Broker Is Beaten, Stripped and Left Unconscious in Launch by Desperate Young Planner of Sensational Plot.

Thomas H. Price, twenty-two, of athletic build, with the manners of a man of education and refinement, is a prisoner at Police Headquarters charged with robbery and assault of A. V. Luebbers, of the insurance brokers' firm of Luebbers & Son, Nos. 11 and 13 Exchange place, and with stabbing with intent to kill Detective-Sgt. Boyle, of the Central Office.

In the arrest of this young man the first story of the assault on Mr. Luebbers was made public. It developed also that young Price is the son of Frank Price, a Chicago newspaper man of standing; that the young man is a deserter from the United States Army; that he has deserted his young wife, a beautiful woman, and his child, a baby of twelve months, and that his mind has been unbalanced by the use of drugs.

Cunningly Laid Plot. With the cunning employed by men whose minds have got under the influence of opium, Price, according to his own confession, planned the robbery and assault upon Mr. Luebbers. Price saw an advertisement in one of the New York newspapers offering to sell a naphtha launch and communicated with the owner of the launch at once. The negotiations lasted several days before Price called upon Mr. Luebbers, who had the launch for sale.

The launch was anchored at West One Hundred and Ninety-fifth street and when a well-mannered young man called on the insurance broker at his home and represented that he wanted to buy a naphtha launch the broker went with him to the launch to show him that it was in working order. The two boarded the boat and set out for a run about the river. The prospective purchaser made himself most agreeable, and, sitting so that Mr. Luebbers's back was to him, secured that he would purchase the craft at the price named.

While he talked the young man held a large iron wrench in his hand. Suddenly, according to the story told the police, he leaped forward and dealt the broker a hard blow on the head, felling him unconscious to the bottom of the boat. Again and again he struck the unconscious man, as the word on his head showed. Then Price set about robbery. With the boat in the middle of the stream he stripped Mr. Luebbers of his clothes and his jewelry. In his pockets was a sum of money and Price did not overlook this. Then Price, according to his statement to the police, took off his own clothes and slipped them upon the unconscious form of the broker. All this done, he steered the launch to the shore, alighted and pushed the boat out into the stream.

Mr. Luebbers was rescued and towed to shore, and the story of his assault and robbery was told the police. Inspector McQuissey assigned Sgt. Boyle to the case, and after he had obtained a description of the assailant and robber, Boyle began watching Price's home in Amsterdam avenue.

JAPS TAKE OFFENSIVE AND CAPTURE DA PASS

News that the Mikado's Forces Were Compelled to Evacuate Three Forts Near Port Arthur Offset by Reports of Success Near Mukden.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 29.—News received here from Mukden says the Japanese have assumed the offensive and have captured Da Pass. This is not actually confirmed, but the General Staff thinks it is likely to be correct. The Russians, it is added, evacuated the pass without serious resistance.

Several other passes of the Da range eastward of Hensilapute—twenty miles southeast of Mukden—are also in the hands of the Japanese. Kurapatkin is evidently drawing in his forces to the less mountainous country northwestward, where he may decide to give battle. Sharp fighting is regarded as imminent southeast of Mukden, whence the Japanese are expected to deliver their main attack, the flank movement from the west being of secondary importance.

Da Pass, or Ta Pass, meaning Great Pass, is situated southeast of Mukden. It is about twenty-five miles south of the Hun River.

The Japanese attacked Da Pass, which was occupied by the troops of Gen. Mischenko and Samonoff, on Sept. 31, but, according to despatches from Harbin, were twice repulsed.

JAPS DRIVEN FROM PORT ARTHUR FORTS

LONDON, Sept. 29.—Despatches from Chefoo to-day tell of the Mikado's troops having been driven from forts 4, 5 and 6 at Port Arthur. These forts were captured during the recent killing assaults made on the besieged fortress. The Chinese say that the Japanese fleet has gone to its base at the Elliott Islands. Two or three Russian ships occasionally go outside the harbor. Torpedo boats have captured several Japanese junk boats for Dalny.

U. S. Warships at Chefoo. The Russians are now building a new fort at Liaotshan, bearing landward. Its construction indicates that it will mount five big guns. The United States warships Cincinnati and Frolic are off Chefoo. They report having heard continuous firing from the Japanese batteries.

Another despatch received here to-day, which, if true, shows that the Japanese reverses have not come singly, tells of the sinking of two Japanese torpedo-boats and a Japanese cruiser by mines at Port Arthur in the past few days. The despatch adds that a Japanese cruiser of the Nishiki type was badly damaged. This despatch comes by way of Vladivostok. It is not official.

A despatch from Paris says that the Russian Government has just ordered from the Compagnie des Forges et Chantiers de la Mediterranee eleven torpedo-boat destroyers of the latest pattern. The work will be taken in hand at once. Four of the destroyers will be built at the dockyards at Havre, four at Norman dockyards, and three at La Seyne. They will not be finished for fifteen months. Further orders are shortly to be given for four cruisers of the Hsyan type.

WILL NOT GIVE UP FAR EAST STRONGHOLD.

ST. PETERSBURG, Sept. 29.—Unofficial announcement was made here to-day that Gen. Stoessel has flatly refused to yield Port Arthur. It was declared that even though instructions were sent him from the War Office to capitulate he would not obey, and followed the example of Nelson, who refused to see the signal telling him to cease fighting.

Russia is now following developments with bated breath. It is fully recognized that the situation at Port Arthur is rapidly becoming desperate. When the moment arrives that the ships are forced to leave the harbor the water question will become doubly serious, as their condensers will no longer be available.

The supplies of munitions and coal in spite of denials, are also running short. The anxiety here is great. No illusions are held as to the widely serious effect the fall of Port Arthur will have. Owing to the elusiveness of the Japanese main army, Gen. Kurapatkin's scouts are still unable to gain any news of the enemy's movements to the south.

At the latest news that the Japanese have destroyed the bridge over the Tatise River, at Liaoyang, the rumor that they purpose stopping where they are and allowing the Russians to attack them finds some credence, however improbable.

From Mr. Luebbers. He was smiling and suave when he was arraigned before Sgt. Barrett. "Yes, I did it all," Sgt. Barrett declared. He told him, he needed the money and he got it some way or other. I saw the advertisement and it was a big chance, but a good one. "But it is ended now," he said. "I didn't get what I wanted, but I will get it this time."

MURPHY'S HIGH FIGURES ON VOTE

Tammany Leader Laughs at the Estimate of 75,000 Democratic Plurality for Entire City Given by Abe Gruber.

Charles F. Murphy to-day made, in a roundabout way, his first estimate on the Democratic plurality he expects to roll up in Greater New York in the November election. He was told that Abe Gruber estimates the Democratic plurality of the whole city at 75,000.

"In the whole city?" asked Mr. Murphy. "Why, we'll beat that a mile in Manhattan alone."

Mr. Murphy and all the district leaders of Tammany Hall will attend the notification ceremonies at Albany next Saturday at noon. They will go as individuals, returning to New York Saturday afternoon.

Referring to the report that he is to make an after-dinner speech at the banquet to be tendered former Mayor Van Wyck, Mr. Murphy said that somebody seems to be trying to have fun with him. He has never made an after-dinner speech in his life and announces his determination to refrain from doing so as long as he lives.

There is sharp rivalry in Tammany for the nomination for Judge of the City Court, as none of the candidates having already declared themselves. John I. Green, of Maurice Featherston's district, and former Civil Judge John P. Schuchman, of John T. Oakley's district, appear to have the inside track. The other aspirants are Jacob Marks, Benno Loewenson, Chas. J. Rosen, Benjamin Hoffman, Wauboppe Lynn, City Magistrate Mayo and Henry W. Unger.

FINDS HUSBAND WITH "FIANCEE"

Mrs. Blum Proceeds to Do Some Pugilistic Stunts, After Which She Has Her Recreant Spouse Arrested.

The fact that Israel Blum, of No. 128 Norfolk street, has a wife and five children depending upon him did not deter him from becoming engaged to another woman. In consequence he was arraigned before Magistrate Hren in the Essex Market Court to-day charged by his wife, Ida, with non-support, and placed under bonds to pay \$100 per week toward her support.

Mrs. Blum told the Magistrate that her suspicions had been aroused when her spouse did not return home nights, and she concluded to do some sleuthing on her own account. She declared that a few nights ago she found him in Corbett's Hook Park with another woman. Last night accompanied by Probation Officer Schwartz, Mrs. Blum visited the Park again, this time armed with a woman for the arrest of Israel. She found him seated on a bench with a woman, Mrs. Blum crept up behind the unsuspecting couple and beat her husband about the head with an umbrella, she asserted. Then she turned her attention to the woman, pulled her in and smashed her face.

CLEVELAND WILL HEAD BIG MEETING

Former President to Address Great Democratic Gathering in Madison Square Garden—Judge Parker Will Be Present.

The first big Democratic political meeting of the campaign will be held in Madison Square Garden Wednesday night, Oct. 12. Arrangements for the gathering have been completed by the Manhattan Club, and the plans contemplate a rally to wake up the town.

Grover Cleveland will be the presiding officer and make a ten-minute address. Bourke Cockran, Richard Olney and Judge D. Cadwell Herrick will make the principal addresses. Judge Parker, the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, will be the guest of honor and will hold a reception to the Democratic hosts. Unless there is an insistent demand, he will not make a speech.

While the meeting will be under the auspices of the Manhattan Club, the Democratic Club will render assistance. Other Democratic organizations have expressed a willingness to get into line and help make the affair memorable. The date for the meeting was set to-day by Judge Parker. This leaves the way open for Tammany Hall to set a date for the great ratification meeting the organization has arranged to hold in the Garden.

SAGE PAYS WIDOW \$750.

Suit for \$50,000 Damages Settled Out of Court. Russell Sage having settled an action brought against him by Mrs. Bridget Kane, the widow and administratrix of Jeremiah Kane, to recover \$50,000 damages for the death of her husband, her counsel, Steyer & Hoffman, to-day applied to Justice Gildersleeve in the Supreme Court to make an order discontinuing the action. Justice Gildersleeve, on the consent of Reed & Reed, Sage's attorneys, made the order sought.

Mrs. Kane alleged that Mr. Sage was and is the owner of the house No. 123 Park avenue. While descending the stairway from the street to the basement on Sept. 15, 1903, her husband's foot caught on the first step and he fell into the area. The fall was alleged to be due to the carelessness and negligence of Mr. Sage and his agents and employees.

Lawyer Charles L. Hoffman said Mr. Sage had consented to pay \$750 in settlement of the claim.

Le Boutillier Brothers

Fall Suits, Coats and Skirts.

For Women—Tailor-made Walking Suits—five new models—Black, Blue and Brown Cheviots and English men's materials.

\$19.75 value \$25.00

For Women—Rain Coats—Four new Fall models—

\$12.00 and \$15.75

value \$18.00 and \$22.00

For Women—English Tan Coat Cloth Coats, silk and satin lined—

\$7.00 value \$10.00

For Women—Black Cheviot plaited 21 gore Walking Skirts—

\$5.00 value \$7.50

Le Boutillier Brothers

West Twenty-third Street.

WASHINGTON GETS GURNEY PAPERS

Massachusetts Governor Asks that British Ambassador See to it that Rights Under International Law Be Not Abused.

AMENDS SUGGESTED WITH THE APOLOGY FORWARDED.

Justice Phelps, Whose Determination Caused the Tangle, Writes His Regrets to English Consul Secretary.

BOSTON, Sept. 29.—After allowing time for the communications in the Phelps-Gurney case to reach Washington, Gov. Bates to-day made public various letters on the subject. The Governor informed the State Department that the judgment against Third Secretary Gurney, of the British Embassy, has been vacated and the fines imposed remitted.

He adds that Judge Phelps had expressed regret to the Secretary of State a copy of which he forwards, together with a statement by Judge Phelps.

The Governor also expresses regret that want of knowledge of the law has resulted in an error of judicial authority in Massachusetts and expresses the hope that the statement of regret by Judge Phelps may be recognized as a conclusive disavowal of any intention of Massachusetts courts to ignore international law.

Wants British Action.

Gov. Bates, however, suggests that the attention of the British Ambassador be called to the breach of the laws of Massachusetts under the belief that the Ambassador will take such action as the case may demand.

On this subject he says: "While the incident is greatly to be deplored, I venture to suggest as in some degree exculpatory of the court in this matter, that the representatives of foreign governments who have dwelt among us have always conducted themselves with such regard for the laws of the Commonwealth as to hitherto furnish no occasion for the consideration by our courts of criminal jurisdiction of the immunities to which such foreign representatives are entitled under the law of nations and through which they may find protection when disregarding our laws."

I suggest that the attention of the Ambassador of His Britannic Majesty be invited to the breach of the laws of this Commonwealth disclosed in the statement of Judge Phelps accompanying this letter, believing that, if his attention is called to it, he will take such action as to make certain that immunities from prosecution in our courts shall not permit the safety of our citizens to be endangered or our laws to be violated because, as a member of the international community, a member of the Embassy of the British Government.

Phelps to Gurney. The letter of Judge Phelps to Third Secretary Gurney was as follows: "Sir: As Justice of the Peace for the County of Suffolk, I am bound to express my profound regret that through a misapprehension of the law I assumed that the Court had jurisdiction over the case of a member of the Embassy of the British Government."

"Having become apprised of this error and seeking to make all possible reparation therefor, the Court has vacated and annulled all proceedings taken in the matter of the complaint against yourself entered on the 22nd inst. and the judgment entered thereon.

"I beg to express my sincere regret that I should have been without intention or fault, the cause of your own personal vexation and annoyance, or that any inconvenience should have occurred which may have seemed to be, though not so in fact, a want of respect for the rights of a representative of the government of His Britannic Majesty."

The other letters sent to Washington merely repeat the details of the case already published.

Water Supply Engineer Quits.

Nicholas R. Hill, jr., chief engineer to the Water Supply Department, sent to the resignation to Commissioner Oakley six weeks ago, with a request that the resignation take effect on Sept. 1. Mr. Hill has been out of the city since the beginning of the month, and it was said that he obtained an appointment in Baltimore. He was made chief engineer of the department, displacing George W. Birdsell, by Col. R. G. Monro on Sept. 27, 1902. The salary of the place is \$10,000 per annum.